

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 666

By Atchley

A RESOLUTION to commend Thomas B. Ballard for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as a faithful and longtime employee of the University of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Thomas B. Ballard is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure with the University of Tennessee, Mr. Ballard has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, for more than thirty-two years, Thomas Ballard has been an integral part of UT's outreach family. Currently, he serves the University as the Vice President for Public and Governmental Relations, a new position that he was appointed to effective September 1, 2002. Previously, he served UT as the Director of Governmental Relations and Associate Vice President for Public Service, Assistant Vice President, and Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, in his current capacity as Vice President for Public and Governmental Relations, Mr. Ballard is responsible for serving as UT's liaison with the executive and legislative branches of state government, focusing the efforts of UT's Office of Public Relations as staff communicate the institution's message to the citizens of the state of Tennessee, and leading the Institute for Public Service, which provides assistance and training for government officials and industrial managers; and

WHEREAS, Thomas B. Ballard was deeply involved in telecommunications and economic development issues from 1985 until the late 1990s on a local, state, and national



level. He served diligently as UT's representative on the Executive Committee for an initiative to build a state of Tennessee information highway, was Chair of the Board on Distance Education of the Commission on Information Technologies of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and was Chair of the Board of Directors of *Technology 2020*, a not-for-profit organization fostering new business development through the use of information technologies; and

WHEREAS, in the area of economic development, Mr. Ballard served, for more than two years, as Chair of the committee coordinating assistance as cities and counties complied with the state's growth policy law; General Chair, in 1998, for the Society of Automotive Engineers' inaugural Southern Automotive Manufacturing Conference and Exposition; Coordinator for the *Automotive News* New American Manufacturing Conference, for more than three years; and as Chair/Coordinator of the Planning Committee for the Governor's Economic Summit, in 1997, the first-ever event of its kind to focus on Tennessee's four key economic sectors: agriculture, commerce, tourism, and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his numerous responsibilities as Vice President for Public and Governmental Relations, Thomas B. Ballard still finds time to lend his remarkable talents to the Board of Directors of the Valley Corridor Summit, Inc, which he serves as Chair; the NASULGC Council on Extension, Continuing Education and Public Service, which he also serves as Chair; and the Board of Directors of the UT-Battelle Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ballard is a proud graduate of the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's degree in Communications. For his innumerable contributions to his alma mater, Thomas Ballard received the 2001 Hileman Outstanding Alumni Award; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Thomas Ballard is greatly appreciative of the love and support of his wife, Diane, who edits *The Tennessee Alumni* magazine; together, they are the parents of one daughter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ballard's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Ballard is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Thomas B. Ballard for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as the Vice President for Public and Governmental Relations at the University of Tennessee and salute his stalwart dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.